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2 APR 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT : PFIAB Report on Soviet Navy

1. You asked that I provide comment on the PFIAB paper re Soviet Navy. I have given a cursory look at the intelligence which has been available on this issue from the community as a whole over the past 10 or 12 years. I must be candid in stating that intelligence, in general, has consistently reported new weapons systems, new initiatives, new technology, and the growth of an impressive command-and-control system with which the Soviet General Staff can support their national policies on the high seas.

2. The many facets of our national intelligence apparatus have each generally performed well in reporting each new development. The Navy's own resources have made, and are making, significant contributions to our base of knowledge and understanding of the threat.

3. One is left with the unpleasant conclusion that for one reason or another (or an unfortunate combination of circumstances), this accumulated wisdom regarding the Soviets has never been adequately transformed into the requisite developments to enable us to keep ahead, or indeed, even to keep pace.

4. The KIQs should help. As you know, there are a number which relate to the overall problem of intelligence on the Soviet Navy. These include questions concerning the Soviet progress in deploying SLBMs, in RDT&E and deployment of future SSBN/SLBMs and naval cruise missile systems, in ASW detection systems, and in the development of aircraft carriers, as well as the Soviet

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intentions for the geographic expansion of naval activities. A number of other KIQs peripherally address the Soviet naval threat. This mechanism forces us to focus the intelligence community attention on high priority naval intelligence issues.

5. In this vein, it is interesting to note that many of our more serious technical enigmas are in the area of Soviet naval capabilities (for example, new ASW technologies, Soviet space systems for ocean surveillance, ASW, and command and control). Attached is a more detailed listing of the information which has been available on the overall naval threat.



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Attachments ² (1) as stated

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